

# Faith and Philosophy: Journal of the Society of Christian Philosophers

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## News And Notes: Volume 15.3

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## NOTES AND NEWS

### *Forthcoming Special Issues*

Topic: Theistic Philosophy in Hinduism and Buddhism

Date: October 1999

Advisory Editor: Paul J. Griffiths

Submission Deadline: January 1, 1999

In spite of the renaissance in philosophy of religion since the 1970s, relatively little attention has yet been paid by philosophers writing English to the rich traditions of thought about God found in Hinduism and Buddhism. Christian philosophers should find these traditions of thought of considerable interest since they contain understandings of God, arguments about God's nature, and arguments for and against God's existence, that were elaborated quite independently of the sacred texts and philosophical traditions of the Abrahamic religions. The purpose of this issue is to explore contributions to philosophical discussion of God made by particular Hindu or Buddhist thinkers or schools. Papers from Christian philosophers assessing such contributions from a Christian viewpoint are welcome, as are papers from non-Christians, whether critical or supportive of the materials treated. In either case, the focus should be upon the philosophical issues raised by the materials treated.

Topic: Kant's Philosophy of Religion

Date: October 2000

Advisory Editor: Philip L. Quinn

Submission Deadline: January 1, 2000

This special issue is intended to contribute to the ongoing project of assessing Kant's controversial legacy to philosophy of religion. It includes his criticism of the arguments of traditional natural theology, his attempt to justify moral faith in God, freedom and immortality, and his efforts to reconstruct various distinctively Christian doctrines, such as original sin and atonement within the limits of reason. Submissions for the special issue could explicate and critically examine one or more of these parts of the Kantian legacy. They could compare Kant's philosophy of religion with the philosophical theology of his illustrious predecessors (e.g., Leibniz) or the religious thought of his distinguished successors (e.g., Hegel or Kierkegaard). Or they could discuss the significance of Kant's work for philosophy of religion today.

Topic: "Wittgensteinianism and Religion"

Date: October 2001

Advisory Editor: D. Z. Phillips

Deadline for submission: January 1, 2001

Philosophy of religion in the twentieth century has been significantly influenced by the work of Ludwig Wittgenstein. The journal will devote a

special issue to this topic on the fiftieth anniversary of his death. Papers are invited on the impact of Wittgenstein and Wittgensteinianism on philosophy of religion, theology and religious studies, on the relation of Wittgensteinianism to other movements in the philosophy of religion, or on specific topics in the Wittgensteinian tradition.

Topic: God and Freedom

Date: October 2002

Advisory Editor: John Martin Fischer

Deadline for Submission: January 1, 2002

The cluster of topics pertaining to God and freedom has been of great interest to philosophers throughout the history of philosophy, as well as currently. Papers for this issue of the journal could explore historical treatments of the issues; alternatively, they could take an ahistorical, analytic approach. Perhaps the most salient question is whether God's omniscience is compatible with human freedom. Authors could explore different conceptions of God's knowledge, including temporal and atemporal conceptions, and conceptions on which God is said to have beliefs and those on which God is not construed as having beliefs. If God is thought to have beliefs, how are these belief-states similar to (and different from) human belief-states? Also, papers could investigate more and less "robust" views about the range of God's knowledge of future events. Similarly, submissions might consider different conceptions of human freedom and how they relate to God's omniscience; for example, some philosophers have argued that whereas God's foreknowledge rules out human freedom in the sense that involves alternative possibilities, it does not rule out a different sort of freedom (that does not involve alternative possibilities). In addition to these topics, submissions could address other related questions, including, "Does God have freedom (and in what sense)?" and "What is the relation between God's freedom and human freedom? (Are they similar or different? Is human freedom rooted in God's freedom and, if so, how? Does God's freedom limit human freedom? And so on.)"

### *Conferences*

#### Conference on Spirituality and Healing Medicine

Date: December 12-14, 1998

Place: The Westin Hotel, Boston

The objectives of this conference are to explore scientifically the relationship between spirituality and healing in medicine and to give perspective from world religions. Special emphasis will be placed on death and dying. Contact:

Professional Meeting Planners  
5 Central Square, Suite 201  
Stoneham, MA 02180

Phone: 781-279-9887 or 800-378-6847. Fax: 781-279-9875. Email: PMPMeeting@aol.com. The Conference is hosted by The Westin Hotel and sponsored by Harvard Medical School, Department of Continuing Education Mind/Body Medical Institute, Caregroup, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. The Westin is located at Copley Place, 10 Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02116.

### *Calls for Papers*

#### Religious Pluralism

Date: March 11-13, 1999  
Place: University of Utah, Salt Lake City  
Submission Deadline: December 1, 1998

We welcome papers on pluralism or any other topic of interest to philosophers of religion. Papers should be approximately 3,000 words long (about 20 minutes reading time). Two copies suitable for blind review should be submitted, along with a one-page abstract including the author's name and affiliation. Conference participants need not be members of the Society of Christian Philosophers.

For more information contact Peter C. Appleby, Department of Philosophy, 260 Central Campus Drive, Room 341, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT 84112-1107, Phone: 801-581-7302, Fax: 585-5192, Email: P.APPLEBY@m.cc.utah.edu.

#### SCP Midwest Regional Meeting

Date: March 25-27, 1999  
Place: Marquette University  
Submission Deadline: January 15, 1999

We invite papers on any topic of interest to Christian philosophers. Please send copies suitable for blind review to Susanne Foster, Department of Philosophy, Marquette University, P.O. Box 1881, Milwaukee, WI 53211-1881. Acceptance notice will be given by February 5, 1999.

Invited speakers include William Wainwright (UW Milwaukee) and Philip Quinn (University of Notre Dame).

## *Fellowships*

### Center for Philosophy of Religion Fellowships for 1998-99

The Center for Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame announces five fellowships for the 1999-2000 academic year. Our Postdoctoral Fellowships (two available) provide a stipend of \$35,000 (teaching one course each semester; otherwise \$30,000) and are offered to those whose tenure at the Center would allow them to grow and make progress in philosophy of religion and theistic philosophy, subsequently disseminating and expanding such work through their own teaching and writing. A Distinguished Scholar Fellowship (one available) will offer a stipend of \$45,000 (teaching one course each semester; otherwise \$40,000) and is intended to provide time for reflection and writing for those whose work is in the forefront of current research in the philosophy of religion or in Christian philosophy. An Extraordinary Fellowship (one available) awards a \$35,000 stipend to a scholar who might not qualify for the fellowships described above, but who would benefit from a year at the Center — for example, foreign scholars or those outside the field of philosophy (e.g., theologians who want to enrich their understanding of philosophy of religion and theistic philosophy, humanists from other fields who could benefit by a deeper grasp of the sort of philosophy practiced at the Center, and scholars interested in a theistic approach to psychology, sociology, economics and other subjects). Finally, a Visiting Graduate Fellowship (one available) provides a \$15,000 stipend to a philosophy graduate student at another institution who is working on a dissertation in philosophy of religion or Christian philosophy and who would profit from spending a year at the Center.

Postdoctoral Fellows and Distinguished Scholar Fellows will ordinarily have opportunity to teach one class each semester. All Fellows will have access to many of the University's facilities (e.g., library and gymnasium), to the activities of the Philosophy Department (some seven of whom take philosophy of religion as their primary area of interest) and to the special activities of the Center (e.g., its weekly colloquia). Those with sabbatical support are welcome to apply. Applicants should see that the Center receives each of the following:

1. A complete *curriculum vitae* (or transcript, for the visiting graduate student applicants), which should include a list of publications and names of three people you will ask to send letters of recommendation on your behalf.
2. Three letters of recommendation.
3. A statement of no more than three pages (double-spaced) describing the Fellowship for which you are applying and the project on which you would like to work while at the Center.
4. One published or unpublished paper.

All material should be sent to:

Alvin Plantinga, Director  
Center for Philosophy of Religion  
330 Decio Hall, P. O. Box 1068  
Notre Dame, IN 46556.

The deadline for Extraordinary Fellowship and Distinguished Scholar Fellowship applications for 1999-2000 is December 1, 1998; for all other Fellowships, April 1, 1999.

### *Editor Search*

We are seeking a new Editor of *Faith and Philosophy* to begin a five-year term on July 1, 2000. The Editor reads, evaluates and sends out for review 100-120 manuscripts per year. Manuscripts accepted for publication, usually after revision, are sent to the Managing Editor, who handles production.

The Editor, who must be a member of the Society of Christian Philosophers, needs modest institutional support. Past editors have had a reduction in teaching of one course per year, support from a secretary or student assistant of ten hours per week, an office, and a \$500 per year supplement to the departmental budget for supplies and mailing expenses. Applicants should have some reasonable hope of institutional support before applying.

To apply, please submit a current CV, two letters of recommendation that speak to your administrative skill and ability to work with others, and a letter saying why you are applying. In your letter, please include answers to the following questions: What do you consider to be the strengths and weaknesses of the journal now? How would you address the weaknesses? In five years as Editor, how would you hope to have contributed to the journal? What is your vision of the right way to integrate Christian faith into your professional work?

The deadline for applications is January 1, 1999. Send applications and inquiries to: Lynne R. Baker, Department of Philosophy, 352 Bartless Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003-0525.